

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2549

To authorize a grant program for educational institutions to analyze, digitize, and map historic records relating to housing discrimination, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2021

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. Ossoff) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize a grant program for educational institutions to analyze, digitize, and map historic records relating to housing discrimination, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mapping Housing Dis-
5 crimination Act”.

6 SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

7 The purpose of this Act is to support—

- 1 (1) efforts by educational institutions to con-
2 duct primary analysis and digitization of historic
3 housing discrimination patterns between 1850 and
4 1988;
- 5 (2) efforts by local governments to digitize
6 property deeds and other historic records relating to
7 housing discrimination; and
- 8 (3) the creation of a national, publicly available
9 database of local records of housing discrimination
10 patterns between 1850 and 1988.

11 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

13 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
14 ty”—

15 (A) means an institution of higher edu-
16 cation (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

18 (B) includes a minority-serving institution.

19 (2) **HISTORIC HOUSING DISCRIMINATION
20 RECORD.**—The term “historic housing discrimina-
21 tion record” means—

22 (A) a deed or other historic property
23 record originating between 1850 and 1988 in
24 which there is evidence of housing discrimina-
25 tion, which may include—

(B) a State law, a local ordinance, or a document that presents evidence of a State law or local ordinance, that—

(ii) permitted housing discrimination.

18 (A) a political subdivision of a State; or

19 (B) the District of Columbia.

(4) MAPPING PROJECT.—The term “mapping project” means a project performed with a grant awarded under subsection (b)(1).

(5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term “minority-serving institution” means an institution of higher education described in section

1 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
2 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

3 (6) OFFICE.—The term “Office”, except as oth-
4 erwise specified, means the Office of Policy Develop-
5 ment and Research of the Department of Housing
6 and Urban Development.

7 (7) OFFICE OF FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OP-
8 ORTUNITY.—The term “Office of Fair Housing and
9 Equal Opportunity” means the Office of Fair Hous-
10 ing and Equal Opportunity of the Department of
11 Housing and Urban Development.

12 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means any
13 State of the United States.

14 (b) MAPPING PROJECTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office may award
16 grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for
17 the purpose of performing projects for analyzing,
18 digitizing, and mapping the historic housing dis-
19 crimination records of not less than 1 jurisdiction.

20 (2) DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

21 (A) DURATION.—The duration of a map-
22 ping project shall be not more than 3 years.

23 (B) AMOUNT.—In determining the amount
24 of a grant under this section, the Office shall
25 consider—

1 (i) the size of the jurisdiction or juris-
2 dictions that are the focus of the mapping
3 project; and

4 (ii) the estimated duration of the
5 mapping project included in the application
6 of an eligible entity under paragraph
7 (3)(B)(ii).

8 (3) APPLICATIONS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desir-
10 ing a grant under this section shall submit to
11 the Office an application at such time, in such
12 manner, and accompanied by such information
13 as the Office may require.

14 (B) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
15 by an eligible entity under this paragraph shall
16 include a description of—

17 (i) each jurisdiction that will be the
18 focus of the mapping project;

19 (ii) the estimated duration of the
20 mapping project;

21 (iii) any necessary partnership with a
22 jurisdiction to digitize and collect historic
23 housing discrimination records, including
24 any—

4 (II) compensation given to the
5 jurisdiction to aid in document
6 digitization efforts;

7 (iv) the methodology that the eligible
8 entity will use to—

(II) compile historic housing discrimination records; and

(III) create a spatial dataset of historic housing discrimination records;

(vi) if the eligible entity has conducted any research described in clause (v), a plan for coordinating that research with research the eligible entity will perform during the mapping project.

(4) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible entity that performs a mapping project shall—

(B) upon the completion of the mapping project, submit to the Office—

(i) the dataset required under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) with respect to the dataset required under subparagraph (A)—

13 (I) raw data relating to the
14 dataset;

15 (II) metadata that describes—

(bb) the dataset; and

(III) any other information relevant to the creation of the dataset.

22 (5) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
23 funds from a grant under this section to—

24 (A) confer with other educational institu-
25 tions or other entities conducting research on

historic housing discrimination patterns to develop and adopt best practices for—

- (i) coordination with jurisdictions;

- (ii) data collection;

- (iii) the involvement of volunteer researchers in mapping projects; and

- (iv) the creation of spatial datasets of historic housing discrimination records;

(B) compensate jurisdictions to aid in the

digitization of local property deeds or other records;

- (C) develop or purchase digital tools to identify racial covenants in digitized property records or other records;

- (D) create a spatial dataset of historic
using discrimination records; and

(E) make the submission required under paragraph (4)(B).

(6) DATA STANDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year

after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office, in coordination with the Office of Fair

Housing and Equal Opportunity, shall establish a set of uniform data standards for the anal-

ysis, digitization, and mapping of historic hous-

1 ing discrimination records with which eligible
2 entities performing mapping projects shall com-
3 ply.

4 (B) METADATA.—The set of uniform data
5 standards established under subparagraph (A)
6 shall include guidance for the creation of the
7 metadata required under paragraph
8 (4)(B)(ii)(II).

9 (C) INPUT.—In developing the uniform
10 data standards under subparagraph (A), the
11 Office shall seek input from educational institu-
12 tions or other entities conducting research on
13 historic housing discrimination patterns.

14 (D) THIRD PARTY PROPOSAL.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Office may
16 award a grant to, or enter into a contract
17 with, a non-Federal entity on a competitive
18 basis for the purpose of proposing the uni-
19 form data standards required to be estab-
20 lished under subparagraph (A).

21 (ii) INPUT.—A non-Federal entity
22 that proposes uniform data standards
23 under clause (i) shall seek input from the
24 entities described in subparagraph (C).

25 (7) NATIONAL DATABASE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—

2 (i) CREATION.—Subject to clause (ii),
3 the Office shall use the data submitted by
4 eligible entities under paragraph (4)(B) to
5 create a national database of historic hous-
6 ing discrimination records.

7 (ii) OPTIONAL 6-MONTH DELAY.—At
8 the request of an eligible entity, the Office
9 shall wait to add data submitted by the eli-
10 gible entity under paragraph (4)(B) to the
11 national database created under clause (i)
12 of this subparagraph until the date that is
13 180 days after the date on which the eligi-
14 ble entity submitted the data.

15 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

16 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall
17 make the database created under subpara-
18 graph (A) publicly available at no cost on
19 the website of the Office.

20 (ii) OTHER INFORMATION.—At the re-
21 quest of any individual, the Office shall
22 provide the individual with the information
23 submitted by an eligible entity under para-
24 graph (4)(B)(ii).

5 (8) DIGITIZATION.—If an eligible entity com-
6 pensates a jurisdiction for the purpose of digitizing
7 local property deeds or other records with funds
8 from a mapping project, the jurisdiction shall make
9 those deeds and records publicly available at no cost.

10 (c) REPORTS.—

(A) in community outreach and engagement, including whether volunteers are involved in the mapping project;

(B) on any necessary collaboration with a jurisdiction for the purpose of digitizing historic housing discrimination records;

(C) on data collection and identification of historic housing discrimination records relating to racial discrimination;

(D) on data collection and the identification of historic housing discrimination records that suggest a pattern of discrimination against individuals with any protected characteristic other than race; and

(E) on the creation of the dataset required under subsection (b)(4)(A).

18 (A) information relating to—

1 (iii) any research the Office or the
2 Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
3 ment performs with information from the
4 national database required under sub-
5 section (b)(7); and

6 (B) an addendum from the Office of Fair
7 Housing and Equal Opportunity that details—

8 (i) the involvement of the Office of
9 Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in
10 the grant program established under sub-
11 section (b), including any coordination with
12 the Office of Policy Development and Re-
13 search of the Department of Housing and
14 Urban Development; and

15 (ii) how the grant program established
16 under subsection (b) relates to—

17 (I) the mission of the Office of
18 Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
19 to enforce the Fair Housing Act (42
20 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.); and

21 (II) any ongoing work of the Of-
22 fice of Fair Housing and Equal Op-
23 portunity.

24 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to the Office—

- 1 (1) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
2 through 2031 to award grants under subsection (b);
3 and
4 (2) \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
5 through 2031, to remain available until expended,
6 for costs associated with carrying out the require-
7 ments of this Act.

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